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SUBJECT: USAID HUMANITARIAN/RECONSTRUCTION SITUATION REPORT
#3, 26 MARCH 2003

SUMMARY

[¶11.](#) On 25 March, the Health Fusion Cell met with representatives in water and sanitation, civil governance, and OTI to strategize on health and water assessments, funding capabilities, and interventions. CA assessments have begun in Safwan to determine the condition of the 5,000 people who are in need of water. Meanwhile a Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society convoy of seven trucks departed for Umm Qasr on 26 March, and a water pipeline between the Kuwaiti border and Umm Qasr is being constructed to supply desalinated water to the port town. The British ship, Sir Galahad, loaded with 232,300 kilograms of emergency humanitarian supplies is ready to unload at Umm Qasr, while a ship carrying Australian wheat will wait at the UAE until the port is deemed secure. The DART conducted an assessment of the Port of Umm Qasr on 26 March, and initial reports suggest that security is acceptable for more detailed assessment teams to move into the port area. On 25 March, the DART met with two representatives from IOM to discuss coordination and IDPs assistance in southern Iraq.

[¶12.](#) ORHA has requested that all USAID team members working directly with ORHA go through the CONUS Resupply Center and that all U.S. Contractors entering Iraq have protective equipment. On 26 March, USAID Mission Staff will participate in an ORHA meeting with a tribal leader of Basra. ORHA has also scheduled a meeting regarding liaison issues with Iraqi Ministries. End Summary.

FOOD

[¶13.](#) One of the two ships carrying Australian wheat has moved from Muscat, Oman to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Australian Embassy has announced that the Government of Australia (GOA) is still in negotiations with the Australian Wheat Board over the price of the 100,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat, which comprises the two shipments. A final price will be determined once the issue of payment of associated transport costs is settled. The estimated cost of the wheat is 20 million USD; associated transport costs are estimated at 24 million USD. However, because of the time it is taking to resolve the issue of transport costs, which is necessary for any World Food Program (WFP) in-kind donation, the Australian Wheat Board has stated that the wheat could be sold on the commercial market in Oman or UAE within the next 36 hours.

HEALTH

[¶14.](#) On 25 March, the Health Fusion Cell met with representatives in water and sanitation, civil governance, and the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) to strategize on health and water assessments, funding capabilities, and interventions. The Health Fusion Cell will incorporate the water and sanitation team. The meeting addressed early interventions, longer-term reconstruction, and interim capabilities to restore water infrastructure. Regular ministry support meetings are also occurring, including the Ministry of Health, to ensure immediate support and functioning of the ministries once there is a regime change.

HUMANITARIAN OPERATION CENTER (HOC) DAILY BRIEFING

[¶15.](#) According to a Kuwaiti government representative, a

Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society convoy of seven trucks departed for Umm Qasr on 26 March. Each truck is transporting approximately 25 MT of rice, bread, lentils, sugar, vegetable oil, tea, canned goods, dairy products, fruit juices, and bottled water. The relief supplies are being warehoused at the port and distribution will be undertaken by U.K. military personnel. Daily convoys are expected to continue to bring additional relief supplies to the population of Umm Qasr.

16. A water pipeline between the Kuwaiti border and Umm Qasr is being constructed to provide 2.4 million liters of desalinated water per day from the main Kuwaiti water system to the port town. The Government of Kuwait is funding the pipeline, and construction assistance has been provided by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The pipeline is expected to be operational on or about 30 March.

17. The British ship, Sir Galahad, loaded with 232,300 kilograms of emergency food, water, medical supplies, and blankets is ready to unload in Umm Qasr. Assessment of the Umm Qasr channel continues and once the port is ready the ship will be off-loaded. Two cranes at the port were assessed to be operational.

18. Humanitarian assessments have begun in Safwan to determine the condition of the 5,000 people who are in need of water but not requesting food. Those affected are still in their homes and speculation is that the water supply has been disrupted.

NGO COORDINATION

19. On 25 March, the DART met with two representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), who will be based in southern Iraq, to discuss WFP/IOM coordination and IOM's plans to assist IDPs in their area. IOM plans to establish an integrated network of NGOs to assist and protect IDPs in Iraq in conjunction with WFP. The IOM has not yet propositioned large amounts of non-food items yet but plans to begin procuring relief supplies now that they are receiving contributions to the Flash Appeal. As soon as the U.N. Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) determines that the situation is stable, IOM plans to shift operations from Kuwait City to Basra, where it would be co-located with the UN Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq and other U.N. agencies and international organizations.

MILITARY LIAISON UNIT

10. The DART conducted an initial assessment of the Port of Umm Qasr on 26 March. The Assessment Team was comprised of security, communications, and military liaison officers and a specialist in chemical, biological, and nuclear exposure. Initial reports suggest that security is acceptable for more detailed assessment teams to move into the port area.

11. The Assessment Team identified a large quantity of warehouse space available at the port. Water and electricity have been cut off due to disruptions in the system at Basra. The Assessment Team will make initial recommendations on how to restore emergency power and water distribution.

USAID - RECONSTRUCTION

12. The Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) has requested that all USAID team members working directly with ORHA must go through the CONUS RESUPPLY CENTER at Fort Benning, which is the personnel liaison for the U.S. military. CRC will insure that training, DOD travel orders (required for deployment to Iraq), equipment, shots, and transportation are covered for all ORHA staff.

13. ORHA has requested that all U.S. Contractors who will be entering Iraq have the following equipment: gas masks, Kevlar helmet, Kevlar vest, appropriate shots, and CBNE gear. The Mission will coordinate with ORHA on how long this requirement will be in place.

14. The Public Affairs Team organized a press roundtable with the DART on 26 March. They have asked the USAID Mission Director to plan a press roundtable on reconstruction in the near future. Also on 26 March, USAID Mission Staff will participate in an ORHA meeting with a major tribal leader of Basra in order to better understand Basra's local governance structures.

15. A Concept of Operations information briefing will occur on 28 March with all ORHA Functional Coordinators. During the briefing, the USAID Reconstruction Team will present its concept of operations to ORHA main staff.

16. On 29 March, ORHA has scheduled an all-day meeting regarding liaison with Iraqi Ministries. USAID Mission team members will attend as appropriate. The meeting will produce a general guidance and briefing plan for ORHA. A

policy advisor nominated by DOD will arrive to work with the Ministry liaisons. ORHA has agreed to provide translator/interpreter support for the USAID Reconstruction Team.

JONES